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MORE GAME FOR THE NATIONAL FORESTS

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Broadcast by Elizabeth S. Pitt of the United States Forest Service, November 10, 1938, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Program, by the National Broadcasting Company and 99 associated radio stations.

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DUKE DU MARS:

Here's a special item of news from the Pisgah National Forest near Asheville, North Carolina. The annual deer hunt is on in that Forest--- the richest game preserve in the Southern Appalachians. This deer hunt started last Monday and will continue until December 3. Elizabeth Pitt, of the United States Forest Service is going to tell you something about it. And don't forget, Betsy, we want to hear something about that baby deer farm -

ELIZABETH PITT:

All right, Duke. I won't forget the baby deer farm.

Wildlife management is a part of the regular Forest Service program in developing our 170,000,000 acres of national forest land so that we will obtain from them all the benefits they can possibly give us. Wildlife is a natural forest crop and under the proper restrictions, hunters are permitted to harvest it in the national forests.

One of the richest game areas in the entire National Forest system is the Pisgah area that Mr. Du Mars mentioned. Part of it was once the hunting ground of the late George W. Vanderbilt. Now its a publicly owned National Forest. Under the protection given this area by the United States Forest Service, the deer population has increased so that there are now more animals than the range can provide food for, and hunters are permitted to take the increase. The hunt this year is the largest ever held. It is supervised, of course, by the Forest Service and the game authorities of the State of North Carolina. The hunters come from all parts of the Eastern United States, and this year 1600 men and women are participating. The deer are so well established that both does and bucks may now be taken.

If a hunter meets a bear, he may shoot him but it will require another license fee of \$10 to remove the bear from the forest. The Pisgah National Forest is grand bear country. It's down there, you know, that you'll find the famous tree on which Daniel Boone carved the news that D. Boone "cilled a ba'r," here in 1760.

And now a little about the baby deer farm that Mr. Du Mars mentioned. It's rather famous because there have been so many pictures of the fawns in the Sunday papers lately.

The baby deer farm on the Pisgah National Forest was started to obtain animals to restock with. The fawns are caught by forest officers or local

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people and brought to the deer farm where they receive the best of care until they are large enough to be turned loose in areas where the deer are too scarce. Some of you know how hard it is to get Papa out of bed to help with Junior's feeding. Well, you would be amazed at what goes on at the baby deer farm on the Pisgah National Forest. July, August, and September are the busy months and there are usually about 150 fawns in the nursery with about six men in charge.

The fawns eat four times a day; at six in the morning, at noon, at six in the evening, -- and at midnight. Canned milk and bran mash are the principal things they eat but feeding formulas just like those in any other nursery, are used - - - and you should see the careful way the rangers check up to see that little Buck gets 13 parts of milk to 23 parts of water and Miss Doe doesn't fail to get her 10 drops of cod liver oil extract.

When I was there last summer there was great excitement because a young rascal the fellows called "Moocher" had mooched himself a good-sized piece of chewing tobacco out of somebody's pocket and had eaten most of it before he was discovered.

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